Central Government, for the purpose of tax exemption on the payment received by an employee on his retirement under such Scheme, is required only if the voluntary Retirement Scheme was implemented prior to 1.4.1992. In the case of a Voluntary Retirement Scheme implemented after 1.4.1992, the approval of Central Government is not required, if such scheme is framed in accordance with the prescribed guidelines. The details of applications received from Central Public Sector Companies during last three years are as under:

	Year 1990	Year 1991	Year 1992
Received	21	15	3
Approved so far	15	7	1
Rejected so for	5	4	1
Pending	1	4	1

Punjab Government's request for waiving 'C' forms

3977. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government has approached the Central Government for waiving 'C' forms in case of transactions between Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was suggested that the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, be amended to insert a proviso in Section 8(4)(a), so that the Assessing Authority, if satisfied in case of inter-State Sales to Jammu & Kashmir that the 'C' forms cannot be produced, may accept secondary evidence to his satisfaction, subject to submission of appropriate indemnity bond by the selling dealer, to safeguard the Government revenue.

Purchase of flat's by State Bank of Indore

3978. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flats purchased from builders by the State Bank of Indore in Sahibabad, in Uttar Pradesh and in Calcutta during the last year;

(b) what are the details of their locations;

(c) what is the cost of each flat;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Bank authorities have paid the amount for these flats before their registration;

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(f) what action has been taken against the officers/sanctioning authorities for making the payment; and

(g) whether it is also a fact that these flats are lying vacant after allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Improving the services of Banks

3979. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign banks operating in the country and far ahead of the Indian banks in the matter of deposits, credit growth etc;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have taken seps to bring Indian banks at par with foreign banks operating in the country; and